

Application Serial No.: 08/466,894
Attorney Docket No.: PMC-003 C276

Examiner Aaron N. Strange

DRAFT PROPOSED AMENDMENT

2-30 (Cancelled) .

31. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a signal in a system comprising a transmitter station and a receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting said signal to said transmitter station, said signal causing a receiver station to gather statistics on programming availability, use or usage, said signal including a first identifier;
and

inputting a transmission schedule associated with said signal, ~~said signal including a first identifier,~~ said schedule including a second identifier, ~~and at least one of:~~

(1) a time at which to transmit said signal; and
(2) at least one of a frequency and an output network on which to transmit said signal;

automatically comparing using a processor at said transmitter station said first identifier and said second identifier;

transmitting said signal to said receiver station according to said schedule based on said step of automatically comparing and said schedule;

selecting a portion of said signal at said receiver station; and

inputting said selected portion of said signal to a processor ~~for~~ at said receiver station,
said processor at said receiver station controlling gathering statistics on programming availability, use or usage.

32-45 (Cancelled).

46. (Cancelled) ~~A method of transmitting at least one of a plurality of signals comprising the steps of:~~

~~inputting a signal, said signal including programming and an identifier;~~

~~inputting a schedule to a controller for controlling a transmission station, said schedule including for each of said plurality of signals at least one of~~

~~(1) — an approximate transmission time; and~~

~~(2) — at least one of a transmission frequency and an output network; transmitting said signal according to said schedule;~~

~~identifying said signal at a receiver station on the basis of said identifier; and~~

~~outputting said identifier to a remote location.~~

47–63 (Cancelled)

64. (Cancelled) A method of communicating a signal comprising the steps of:
~~inputting a signal, said signal including (i) specific programming including at least one of video, audio and data programming and (ii) an embedded identifier;~~

~~inputting said signal to a switch and a processor;~~

~~determining said specific programming inputted to said switch;~~

~~controlling said switch to communicate said specific programming according to timing instructions; and~~

~~delaying communication of said signal.~~

65-79 (Cancelled)

80. (Currently Amended) A method of processing signals in a system including a transmission station and a receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

programming said receiver station to store user data and select said signals on the basis of said user data;

inputting a programming signal and a comparison signal at said transmission station; said comparison signal ~~designating a transmission schedule~~ identifying program content of said programming signal;

inputting said transmission schedule at said transmission station, said transmission schedule comprising for each of said signals at least two of:

(1) a transmission time;

(2) an identifier for at least one of a transmission frequency and an output network;

and

(3) a signal identifier;
comparing said comparison signal to data from said transmission schedule;
transmitting a transmission including said programming signal and said comparison signal from said transmission station in accordance with said transmission schedule based on said step of comparing said comparison signal;
selecting information detected in ~~at least one of said programming signal and said comparison signal~~ transmission at said receiver station;
comparing said selected information to said user data; and
receiving a portion of an information transmission ~~including said programming signal and said comparison signal~~ at said receiver station based on said step of comparing.

81-84 (Cancelled)

85. (Currently amended) A method of processing a plurality of signals in a system including a transmission station and a receiver station, wherein said receiver station is remote from said transmission station, said method comprising the steps of:

programming said receiver station to store user data;
inputting said plurality of signals to said transmission station;
inputting a transmission schedule associated with said plurality of signals, said transmission schedule identifying a specific schedule for each of said plurality of signals, each said specific schedule designating for at least one of said plurality of signals at least two of:

- (1) a transmission time;
- (2) at least one of a transmission frequency and an output network; and
- (3) an identifier;

transmitting at least one of said plurality of signals in accordance with said transmission schedule;

causing said receiver station to store at least one of said plurality of signals ~~based on by~~ identifying information content of said at least one of said plurality of signals associated with said user data.

86 (Cancelled)

87. (Previously Presented) A method of communicating a plurality of signals in a network, said network including a transmission station and a remote receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting said plurality of signals at said transmission station;
inputting a communication schedule associated with said plurality of signals, said communication schedule designating for each signal of said plurality of signals at least two of:

- (1) a transmission time;
- (2) at least one of a transmission frequency and an output network; and
- (3) a designation code;

communicating each signal of said plurality of signals in accordance with said communication schedule;

inputting a portion of said plurality of signals to a computer at a time when specific information content does not exist;

generating said specific information content in response to said inputted portion of said plurality of signals; and

causing said receiver station to output said specific information content.

88. (Currently amended) A method of generating information content in a network, said network including a transmission station and a receiver station, said receiver station being remote from said transmitter station, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting television programming and a control signal at said transmission station, said control signal for causing said receiver station to generate information content;

inputting a schedule associated with said ~~control signal~~ television programming, said schedule designating at least two of:

- (1) a transmission time;
- (2) at least one of a transmission frequency and an output network; and
- (3) an identifier;

communicating said control signal from said transmission station in accordance with said schedule at a time when information content does not exist;

inputting said control signal to a computer at said receiver station based on said step of communicating;

generating said information content in response to said control signal, said information content ~~including~~ included in at least one of video and a graphic; and

causing a signal generator ~~at least one of (i) to add at least one of said control signal and said generated information content to an output including television programming at said transmission station and (ii) to add said generated information content~~ at least one of video and a graphic to an output including said television programming at said receiver station.

89-92 (Cancelled).

93. (Currently amended) A method of processing signals in a network including a transmitter station and a user station, said user station having a processor, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting a plurality of signals at said transmitter station, one of said plurality of signals including a programming signal and a processor instruction, said processor instruction instructing user stations how to response to user responses;

inputting a schedule associated with said plurality of signals, said schedule including a designation for each of said plurality of signals of at least two of:

- (1) a transmission time;
- (2) at least one of a transmission frequency and an output network; and
- (3) an identifier;

communicating said ~~programming signal~~ said one of said plurality of signals in accordance with said schedule;

receiving said one of said plurality of signals at said user station; ~~and~~

outputting programming included in said programming signal;

inputting a user response to information included in said programming signal; and

processing said user response in accordance with said processor instruction.

94-97 (Cancelled)

98. (Currently amended) A method of processing a plurality of signals in a system, wherein said system includes a transmission station and a receiver station, said receiver station being remote from said transmitter station, said method comprising the steps of:

~~inputting to said system~~ receiving at said transmission station said plurality of signals;
~~wherein said plurality of signals includes~~ including multimedia signals, wherein said multimedia signals include (i) ~~at least one of video programming and audio programming~~ and (ii) ~~at least one of computer programming and programming to be printed in multiple formats~~;

inputting said multimedia signals to ~~at least one of~~ a switch ~~and~~ controlled by a processor at said transmission station;

controlling said ~~at least one of~~ a switch ~~and~~ a processor to communicate said multimedia signals to said receiver station according to a schedule ~~timing instruction~~;

~~determining at least one of a programming kind and subject matter included in said multimedia signals~~;

~~delaying at least one of processing and communication of a portion of~~ at said receiver station at least a first of said multimedia signals to generate a portion of a multimedia presentation; and

outputting a multimedia presentation ~~based on said multimedia signals~~ including said generated portion and information content from at least a second of said multimedia signals.

99-118 (Cancelled)

119. (Currently amended) A method of processing multimedia signals in a network including a transmission station and a receiver station, said receiver station having storage capacity for storing multimedia programming, said storage capacity including at least two of an optical disk player, a video recorder/player, and a computer, said method comprising:

~~inputting to said network~~ receiving at said transmission station a plurality of signals, wherein at least two of said plurality of signals are multimedia signals, each of said multimedia signals including at least one of video, audio and data programming, said multimedia signals further including an embedded identifier;

inputting said plurality of signals to a switch ~~and~~ controlled by a processor at said transmission station;

identifying programming inputted to said switch;

controlling said switch to communicate said ~~plurality of~~ multimedia signals to said receiver station according to ~~timing instructions~~ a schedule;

~~identifying programming inputted to said switch~~;

storing information from at least one of said multimedia signals at said receiver station;
communicating an instruct-to-coordinate signal to said receiver station;
~~delaying at least one of processing and communication of said multimedia signals in~~
~~response to said instruct to coordinate signal;~~ and
presenting multimedia programming at said receiver station at at least one of a specific
time and a specific place in response to said instruct-to-coordinate signal, said multimedia
programming included in said multimedia signals.

120-235 (Cancelled)

236. The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of storing said selected
portion of said signal.

237. The method of claim 31, wherein said selected portion of said signal includes said
first identifier.

238-248 (Cancelled)

249. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 46, further comprising selecting at least one~~
~~of said plurality of signals according to said schedule.~~

250 (Cancelled)

251. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 64, wherein said signal is at least one of a~~
~~plurality of signals.~~

252. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 251, further comprising the step of reordering~~
~~said plurality of signals.~~

253-259 (Cancelled).

260. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 80, wherein said selected information is~~
~~detected in said comparison signal.~~

261. The method of claim 80, wherein said comparison signal includes a plurality of
identifiers.

262. The method of claim 80, wherein said receiver station includes a plurality of receivers.

263. The method of claim 262, further comprising the steps of:
receiving said selected information at a first of said plurality of receivers, and
receiving said portion of said information transmission at a second of said plurality of receivers.

264. The method of claim 80, wherein said step of receiving includes actuating a receiver.

265-266 (Cancelled).

267. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 80, wherein said selected information is detected in said information transmission.~~

268. The method of claim 80, wherein said programming signal includes an identifier.

269. The method of claim 80, wherein said programming signal includes said comparison signal.

270 (Cancelled)

271. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 85, wherein said step of causing includes identifying said at least one of said plurality of signals.~~

272. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 88, further comprising the step of programming wherein said control signal is embedded in a transmission including said television programming for communication to said receiver station and said computer is programmed to respond to at least one said control signal embedded in a television signal.~~

273. (Currently amended) The method of claim 88, further comprising the step of programming said transmission station to detect at least one control signal embedded in a television signal including said television programming.

274-279 (Cancelled).

280. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 98, wherein said timing instruction includes a schedule.~~

281. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~280~~ 98, further comprising the step of causing said transmission station to transmit said plurality of signals in accordance with said schedule.

282. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~280~~ 98, further comprising the step of detecting an identifier in said plurality of signals.

283. The method of claim 282, further comprising the step of comparing said identifier to information included in said schedule.

284. The method of claim 98, further comprising the step of including an instruct-to-coordinate signal in said plurality of signals.

285. The method of claim 284, wherein said instruct-to-coordinate signal includes an identifier.

286. The method of claim 98, further comprising the step reordering at least two of said plurality of signals.

287-303 (Cancelled)